

men and women in uniform that Larry considered to be one of his greatest achievements.

Larry Wilson was a community leader and a patriot. I am proud that exceptional citizens and public servants, such as Larry, call my District home and am honored to recognize his life's work today. My condolences and well wishes go out to his wife of 38 years, Linda, and to his children Laura, Jeremy, Michael and Christopher as well his grandchildren.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,126,867,888.58. We've added \$6,111,249,818,975.50 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS OF AMERICA HONOR GUARD

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of the Korean War Veterans Association Honor Guard and the dedication of the leaders of Chapter 299 of the Association: Mr. Arthur Griffith, Mr. Otis Mangrum, and Mr. Mark Tiilikkala.

The Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) was founded in 1985 with the goal of organizing, promoting, and maintaining an association of individuals who served the United States during the Korean War. Mr. Mangrum, Mr. Tiilikkala, and Mr. Griffith, of KWVA Chapter #299, have served as the KWVA's Honor Guard at Memorial Day and Veteran's Day commemorations in Washington, D.C. every year since 2007. Based in the Massachusetts State House, the KWVA Honor Guard of Chapter #299 has proudly performed their duties at Arlington National Cemetery and the Korean War Memorial for appreciative citizens and veterans. As we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the armistice between North and South Korea, it is essential that we recognize the selfless actions of the soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, coast guardsmen, and others who fought to secure peace for the Korean people and safeguard America's allies. Mr. Mangrum, Mr. Tiilikkala, and Mr. Griffith deserve our gratitude for dedicating themselves to their fellow veterans and ensuring the nation's colors stand tall whenever we honor our service men and women.

As the years continue to pass, we must make sure that the commitment made by the veterans of the Korean War is preserved in our memories now and in the future. The commitment made by the KWVA Chapter in hon-

oring this memory sets an example for us all to follow.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to thank Mr. Arthur Griffith, Mr. Otis Mangrum and Mr. Mark Tiilikkala of KWVA Chapter #299 for their steadfast commitment to honoring veterans. I ask that my colleagues join me in commending these gentlemen for their skill, military excellence, and deportment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLORIA NEGRETE McLEOD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2013

Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD. Mr. Speaker, from July 8, 2013 to July 19, 2013, I was unavoidably absent from the House and missed rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote Nos. 305, "nay"; 306, "nay"; 307, "aye"; 308, "nay"; 309, "nay"; 311, "aye"; 312, "aye"; 313, "aye"; 314, "aye"; 315, "nay"; 316, "aye"; 317, "nay"; 318, "aye"; 319, "nay"; 320, "aye"; 321, "aye"; — 322, "aye"; 323, "aye"; 324, "aye"; 325, "aye"; 326, "aye"; 327, "aye"; 328, "aye"; 329, "aye"; 330, "nay"; 331, "aye"; 332, "aye"; 333, "nay"; 334, "aye"; 335, "aye"; 336, "aye"; 337, "aye"; 338, "aye"; 339, "nay."

Rollcall vote Nos. 340, "nay"; 341, "aye"; 342, "aye"; 343, "nay"; 344, "aye"; 345, "nay"; 347, "nay"; 349, "nay"; 350, "nay"; 351, "nay"; 352, "aye"; 353, "nay"; 354, "aye"; 355, "aye"; 356, "aye"; 357, "nay"; 358, "nay"; 359, "nay"; 360, "aye"; 361, "nay"; 362, "aye"; 363, "nay"; 364, "nay"; 365, "nay"; 366, "aye"; 367, "aye"; 368, "nay"; 369, "nay"; 370, "nay"; 371, "aye"; 372, "aye"; 373, "aye"; 374, "nay."

INTRODUCING THE WILDLIFE VETERINARIANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACT OF 2013

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Wildlife Veterinarians Employment and Training Act of 2013. This legislation will serve as a source of job growth, promote robust public health policy, and develop affordable opportunities for individuals who are interested in becoming wildlife and zoological veterinarians.

Wildlife and zoo veterinarians are the primary source of essential health care and management for wild animals in their natural habitat and in captivity. Not only do these physicians preserve natural resources and the lives of animals, but they subsequently help protect human health by preventing, detecting and responding to exotic and dangerous diseases.

With the intensification of global interaction between humans, livestock and wildlife, the threat posed by emerging infectious diseases to humans and wildlife continues to increase. Controlling these pandemic and large-scale outbreaks of disease has become more problematic and much more pertinent of an issue.

However, the United States faces a shortage of positions for wildlife and zoo veterinarians to ensure our safety from this threat.

Following graduation, professionals practicing wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine go on to earn relatively low salaries, compared to their companions in animal medicine. Studies also show that on average, veterinarian graduates owe roughly \$130,000 in student loans. The reality of a low salary, combined with high educational debt, amidst scarce employment opportunities, discourages students from pursuing these important careers. Furthermore, due to the severe lack of practical training and formal educational programs specializing in wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine, graduates are unable to make significant contributions to the field.

My bill will directly address these issues which prevent and dissuade veterinarians from practicing wildlife and zoological medicine. It will contribute to the national job creation effort by funding new positions for wildlife and zoo veterinarians to enter upon graduation. The bill will also limit the amount of educational debt for students while providing incentives to practice wildlife and zoo veterinary medicine through the establishment of scholarships and loan repayment programs. Lastly, my legislation will advance education by helping schools develop pilot curricula around wildlife and zoo veterinary medicine and by expanding the number of practical training programs available to students.

Mr. Speaker, we have reached a point in our history when we can no longer ignore the importance of protecting wildlife, domestically and internationally. Wild animals play a very critical role in our natural resources and contribute to maintaining a balanced ecosystem. With an increasing number of endangered species, invasive non-native species, and infectious disease threats, wildlife and zoological veterinarians must be prioritized and given the resources and recognition necessary to protect both animal and human lives.

I urge my colleagues to extend a helping hand to America's veterinarians by supporting this important piece of legislation.

DOUGLAS A. MUNRO COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, I rise to support H.R. 2611, a bill to designate the new Coast Guard headquarters building as the "Douglas A. Munro Coast Guard Headquarters Building."

Douglas A. Munro, a signalman first class of the United States Coast Guard, died heroically on Guadalcanal Island on September 27, 1942, after succeeding in his volunteer assignment to evacuate a military unit of Marines under fire from opposition forces.

Born on October 11, 1919, Munro was raised Washington State and attended the Central Washington College of Education for a year before enlisting in the United States Coast Guard in 1939. He had an outstanding record of service in the Coast Guard and was quickly promoted to signalman, first class.